

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /074 W
-----008386 062103Z /41

R 051837Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7382
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06168

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR
SUBJECT: EGON BAHR TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

REF: BONN 20071

1. THE SPD HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PARTY BUSINESS MANAGER EGON BAHR WILL VISIT MOSCOW IN MID-APRIL FOR TALKS ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. BAHR IS GOING AT THE BEHEST OF SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT, WHO MADE THE REQUEST IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, BAHR WILL DISCUSS NORTH-SOUTH QUESTIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. THE VISIT IS SAID TO BE IN LIEU OF BRANDT'S DECEMBER TRIP TO MOSCOW, (REFTEL) WHICH WAS CANCELLED WHEN BREZHNEV BECAME ILL.

2. AN SPD SOURCE TOLD US THE PARTY IS IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIETS REGARDING BAHR'S INTERLOCUTORS AS WELL AS THE TIMING OF THE VISIT.

3. COMMENT: BAHR'S ROLE AS A PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF "OST POLITIK" IS WELL KNOWN AND NO ONE HERE EXPECTS HIM TO CONFINE HIS DISCUSSIONS TO ECONOMIC MATTERS.
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ALTHOUGH HIS TRIP WAS MADE PUBLIC PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT, IT IS LIKELY THAT HE WILL GET INVOLVED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE LATTER. THE SOVIETS MAY WELL SEE IN BAHR A HELPFUL CHANNEL TO SCHMIDT TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING THE VISIT A POLITICAL SUCCESS, WHATEVER THIS MAY ENTAIL.

STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN06168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-0598
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780492/aaaaczqs.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 03047db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 20071
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3073166
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGON BAHR TO VISIT SOVIET UNION
TAGS: PEPR, GE, UR, (BAHR, EGON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/03047db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014